

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 FDRE-00 PC-05 AGR-10 HEW-06 /110 W

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R 251135Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0520

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLANABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

UNCLAS LAHORE 0867

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS TO AID/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PK

SUBJECT: SEASONAL FLOODING CONTINUES IN PUNJAB

REF: LAHORE 855

1. IN 48 HOURS SINCE REFTEL REPORT, FEAR OF SERIOUS "SECOND WAVE" OF FLOODING FROM RISING WATERS IN UPPER RAVI AND CHENAB RIVERS HAS DECLINED AS FLOW AT BOTH JASSAR AND MARLA HEADWORKS CRESTED AT LEVELS WELL BELOW LAST WEEK'S HIGHWATER MARKS, THEN FELL. OFFICIAL REPORTS JULY 25 STATE THAT FLOW AT JASSAR ON RAVI NEAR INDIAN BORDER REACHED 187,000 CUSECS MIDDAY JULY 24, THEN DECLINED TO 136,000 AFTER RIVER OVERFLOWED BANKS UPSTREAM OF HEADWORKS; RAVI HAS REPORTEDLY RECEDED TO "LOW" FLOOD AND FALLING" JULY 25. SIMILARLY, CHENAB AT MARALA REACHED 311,000 CUSECS MIDDAY JULY 24 (COMPARED WITH HIGH OF 507,000 JULY 16), THEN FELL STEADILY AND IS REPORTED "NORMAL" JULY 25.

2. HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL LOCAL FLOODING OCCURRED IN SIALKOT DISTRICT AS CONSEQUENCE. BESIDES OVERFLOW OF RAVI RIGHT BANK JULY 24 (PARA 1), LEFT BANK OF CHENAB BREACHED ABOVE MARALA, BOTH CAUSING RE-FLOODING OF SOME

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LANDS INUNDATED LAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS,

AS YET UNCONFIRMED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES, FOUR OF FIVE
TEHSILS SIALKOT DISTRICT WERE "SEVERELY HIT" BY LATEST
OVERFLOWS, INUNDATING 900 VILLAGES WITH POPULATION UPWARDS
OF 350,000 PEOPLE AND ABOUT 300,000 ACRES, MUCH OF IT
UNDER PADDY AND COTTON. SIALKOT WOULD REMAIN HARDEST
HIT OF ELEVEN FLOOD-AFFECTED DISTRICTS OF PUNJAB.

3. MEANWHILE "FIRST WAVE" STILL CAUSING FURTHER DAMAGE
AND HARDSHIP IN SOUTHERN REACHES OF PUNJAB RIVER SYSTEM.
BREACH IN RIGHT BANK OF CHENAB ABOVE PANJNAD HEADWORKS
(BAHAWALPUR) CAUSED NEW FLOODING AROUND ALIPUR IN
MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICT JULY 24, WHILE OVERFLOW AT PANJNAD
FLOODED 16 VILLAGES IN NORTHERN RAHIMYAR KHAN DISTRICT.
MORE DAMAGE IS EXPECTED FROM COURSE OF "SECOND WAVE" DOWN
RAVI AND CHENAB IN AREAS ALREADY BREACHED, AND POSSIBLY
NEW SECTORS. LITTLE FLOOD DAMAGE REPORTED SO FAR IN
EITHER SUTLEJ BASIN TO EAST OR JHELMUM TO WEST OF
RAVI-CHENAB SYSTEMS.

4. AFTER VISITING AFFECTED AREAS IN SIALKOT, LAHORE
AND SHEIKHPURA DISTRICTS JULY 23, PRIME MINISTER
BHUTTO REPORTEDLY ASSURED FLOOD VICTIMS ALL POSSIBLE
RELIEF, ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES AND REHAB-
ILITATION OF FACILITIES, BUT REGARDED FLOODS TO BE
GENERALLY UNDER CONTROL.
SPENGLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, FLOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAHORE00867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750257-0526
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750722/aaaaatpi.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAHORE 855
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEASONAL FLOODING CONTINUES IN PUNJAB
TAGS: EGEN, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006